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ON INTELLIGENCE

March 27, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in support of the applications submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) and the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) to the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) fiscal year 2022 Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) program. The MaineDOT and MDMR request federal support to assist with the replacement of twenty-three road system stream culverts in fifteen communities across Maine.

The twenty-three culverts identified by MaineDOT and MDMR are undersized and affect the passage of native migratory fish. Furthermore, these culverts cause ongoing maintenance and repair problems for the municipalities in which they are located. These culverts, located in the Kennebec and Sheepscot River watersheds, in Downeast Maine, and the Sandy River, demonstrate MaineDOT and MDMR's commitment to environmentally sound and sustainable infrastructure development.

Replacing these culverts will address aging infrastructure and issues adversely affecting motorists and pedestrians alike. Additionally, these projects will significantly contribute to the habitat available for endangered anadromous fish species and their prey. The replacement of these culverts will restore access to approximately forty-four total miles of habitat for native fish species, including the endangered Atlantic Salmon.

Thank you for your time and effort on behalf of MaineDOT and DMR. I urge your careful consideration of their proposal, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that your staff please notify Trevor Hustus at (202) 224-2523 when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator